rate based o i weekly movement of wholesale price index was 5.2% (:rovisional). It has since risen to 5.7% provisional f the week ending 24.8.1996, upto which the latest pri data is available. In the case of essential commodities, the Budget even inflation rate was 4.6% which has now moved upto 5.9% as on 24.8.1996.

(b) The Consumer Price Index for industrial workers, CPI (IW), is made available by the Labour Ministry on monthly basis instead of weekly basis. The annual rate of increase in CPI (IW) in the months June-July 1996-97 for which data is available, is shown below together with the corresponding months in the preceding two years :

Annual Rise (Point-to-point) in CPI (IW)

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
June	10.8	10.5	8.8
July	11.1	11.4	8.3

Banking Service for Small Investors

*586. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether banks have been urged to improve their quality of service particularly to small investors so as to encourage them to step up savings and investment in the country;

(b) if so the details of the directives issued by the Government to the banks in this regard ;

(c) whether a number of suggestions regarding infrastructure investment financing have also been received; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b). The importance of providing improved services to all categories of clientele including small investors had been conveyed to public sector banks from time to time. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had appointed a Committee in September, 1990 on Customer Service in Banks under the Chairmanship of Shri M.N. Goiporia, the then Chairman, State Bank of India to look into various aspects of customer service in banks. This Committee made a number of recommendations covering the following important areas :

(i) Improving customer service by enlarging facilities.

(ii) Opening of specialised branches.

(iii) Compensating customers for delays in certain transactions.

(iv) Making employees more responsive and customers friendly.

(v) Technical upgradation and review of systems and procedures.

RBI has already advised banks to implement most of the recommendations of the Committee. All public sector banks have initiated action on these recommendations and in most banks a majority of the recommendations have already been implemented.

(c) A number of suggestions regarding infrastructure financing have been made from time to time, and these have been considered in detail by Dr. Rakesh Mohan Committee (Report on Role of the Capital Market in financing of Infrastructure Development).

(d) Having regard to the importance of the infrastructure financing, Government have decided to set up the Infrastructure Development Finance Company.

[Translation]

Policy for Export by Small Scale Industries

*587. SHRI SUKH LAL KUSHWAHA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any policy to boost the export of products of small scale industries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of items produced by the small scale industries which are likely to be included in the export list under the said policy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) to (c). The Export & Import Policy (1992-97) extends equal opportunity to all Exporters to avail the export promotion schemes provided for therein, to boost exports and increase foreign exchange earnings for the country. However, with a view to encouraging export of products from the SSI sector, double weightage is given on the NFE or FOB value earned by the export of products manufactured by Small Scale Industries for claiming eligibility for attaining the status of Export House, Trading House, Star trading House and Super Star Trading House as per para 139 of the Export & Import Policy. In addition, products manufactured by Handlooms and handicrafts Sector (including Handloom made silk products), Hand knotted carpets, carpets made of silk are given double weightage on FOB and triple weightage on NEF earned by the export of such products. Further 1% extra SIL is also permitted to exporters of SSI, Handloom and Handicraft products (including handloom made silk products), hand knotted carpets, carpet made of silk and sports goods provided the export of these products is more than 50% of their total export. A provision has also been made making small exporters, who are not Export House/Trading House/Star Trading House/Super Star Trading House, eligible for claiming benefits of Special

Import Licence if their average direct export turn over is Rs. 2 crores in the preceding three years or Rs. 5 crores in the preceding year. The benefit of Special Import Licence at the rate of 4% of the FOB value of such direct exports made on or after 1.4.1996 has been made available to such exporters who will be mostly from the SSI Sector.

[English]

P oduction of Textile Machinery

*588. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether industry relating to production of textile machinery is facing acute recession ;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps the Government propose to take to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not anse.

[Translation]

Recommendations of Malimath Committee

*589. SHRI MAHESH KUMAR M. KANODIA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Malimath Committee has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the Malimath Committee;

(c) the recommendations that have been implemented by the Government ;

(d) the recommendations which have not been implemented so far; and

(e) the reasons for their non-implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D KHALAP) : (a) The report of the Malimath Committee (known as Arrears Committee) was received by the Government in September, 1990.

(b) The recommendations of the Malimath Committee can be categorised into the following types :

(i) Changes in legislative enactments such as abolishing the ordinary original civil jurisdiction of High Courts, reduction in appeals, amendments in Civil Procedure Code etc;

(ii) Administrative and procedural modifications in the judiciary to be effected by the State Governments/ High Court/Central Government. The recommendations like appointment of Judges, transfer policy, increase in Judges strength of High Courts, adherence of punctuality in Courts, grouping and classification of cases for their expeditious disposal, avoidance of long arguments etc;

(iii) Modernisation and automation of courts, provision of necessary infrastructural facilities for judges to enable them to dispose of cases expeditiously;

(iv) Constitution of specialised bodies as alternatives to Courts like tribunals/commissions to deal with specific types of cases.

(c) to (e). The recommendations of the Malimath Committee were sent to all the concerned Central Ministries, State Governments and High Courts for necessary follow-up action. Some of the recommendations viz; relating to raising of the pecuniary jurisdiction of District Courts, introduction of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to upgrade infrastructural facilities for the judiciary, setting up of training facilities for legislative drafting, setting up of National Judicial Academy for providing training to Judicial Officers, etc. have already been implemented by the concerned authorities. No action is required to be taken now on the recommendations relating to appointment of Judges, their transfer, policy on review on Judges strength etc. which are now regulated as per memorandum of procedure drawn after the October 1993 verdict of the 9 Judges Bench of the Supreme Court wherein the primacy rests with the Chief Justice of India.

Further, a meeting of the Law Ministers was held at Bangalore in October, 1992 to review the suggestions made by the Malimath Committee so as to reduce the pendency of cases in Courts. As per the decision taken in the Law Ministers Conference, 3 working groups of State Law Ministers were constituted to suggest mreasures for the implementation of the recommendation of the Arrears Committee, so as to expedite the disposal of cases in courts. The recommendations of these working groups of State Law Ministers was considered by the Chief Ministers and Chief Justices Conference held on 4th December, 1993 under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister. The Conference recommended several steps in a resolution it adopted for speedy disposal of cases in Courts/Tribunals, which have been accepted by the Government and commended to all the State Governments/UT Administrations and High Courts/Tribunals for necessary action. Three Working Groups of Law Ministers, thereafter, met to consider the recommendations contained in the above Resolution with regard to rural litigations, arrears of cases in administrative tribunals and alternative dispute resolution. The implementation of December, 1993 resolution and recommendations made